

MOTION BY CHAIR HILDA L. SOLIS  
AND SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

DECEMBER 15, 2015

**EXPANDING WINTER SHELTERS FOR HOMELESS**

El Niño will make its way to California in the next several weeks and homeless service providers are urgently trying to seek large vacant spaces for the thousands of people who will need shelter from the storms. Year-round, there are only enough beds to house about a third of the County's 44,000 homeless. In previous actions earlier this year, this Board approved the lengthening of the period that our Winter Shelters would remain open, and we also increased the beds in the existing Winter Shelters to their maximum capacity. In addition, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) plans to open seven additional shelters in the coming weeks during periods of extreme weather; however we need to do more.

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Additional Winter Shelters are needed to address the gap that exists between the number of available beds and the increased need during anticipated El Niño activity. While Winter Shelters provide temporary housing, warmth and food to single adult men and women, there are not enough. Moreover, families with children are not served by these sites and the inability to provide them with shelter puts them at risk. As a result, we have an immediate need to find shelter locations that can serve both adults and children with families. No one who wants and needs shelter should be turned away or be without.

**WE, THEREFORE MOVE** that the Board direct the Chief Executive Officer, in coordination with the Director of the Homeless Initiative, to report back within 30 days with a plan for an expedited solicitation process that would allow the opening of additional Winter Shelters. The report should include expanded transportation to both new and existing winter shelters sites.

**WE, FURTHER MOVE** that the Board direct the Chief Executive Officer, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Child Protection, to report back within 30 days with a list of philanthropic agencies that would provide funding to house families with children.

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HLS: JYP, JAB